

Smock, Rose
11-27-61

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1961.



DO YOU REMEMBER? — The role of "Sis Hopkins" was made famous on the American stage many years ago by a Terre Haute woman. She was Miss Rose Smock, known on the stage as Rose Melville. The role was originally played by her sister, Ida, in a play written by her husband, Sam T. Young. They were the parents of Richard Young of 420 Kean Lane.

'Sis Hopkins' Role Made Famous On Stage by Terre Haute Woman

BY FRANCES E. HUGHES

Seventy years ago Miss Rose Smock, daughter of a Baptist minister, started her stage career in Terre Haute.

Two years later, under the stage name of Rose Melville, she made famous the role of a rural comedienne, "Sis Hopkins."

Originally, the role was played by her sister Ida in the play entitled, "Zeb," written and produced by Ida's husband, Samuel T. Young, who had the Sam T. Young Comedy Company. They were the parents of Richard Young of 420 Kean Lane.

Later, they sold the rights to the role to Ida's sister Rose, who went on to become world famous in this comedy act.

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ROSE WAS born Jan. 30, 1873, one of four daughters of the Rev. Jacob Smith and his first wife, Caroline Puett. She attended the

academy at St. Mary-of-the-Woods and Franklin College. Her debut in the theater was in 1891, when she was but 18 years old.

After making the role of "Sis Hopkins" famous in the show about Zeb Clodhopper, she appeared in "Little Christopher" in 1895, in the leading role in "The Prodigal Father" in 1896-97, was in "By the Sad Sea Waves" in 1898, and for at least 10 years after that played the role of Sis in "Sis Hopkins," with her own company.

Her home at that time was in South Bend. She was married first to Harry Hardy, and later to Frank Minzey. Both she and her second husband died several years ago at Lake George, N. Y.

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ALL FOUR of the Smock sisters appeared on the stage. All four also took the stage name of Melville, presumably because it was important in that day to have romantic-sounding stage names and because their father was a Baptist minister.

Rose became the most famous of the four daughters in her role of "Sis Hopkins." She and Josephine (who changed her name to Pearl), Ida and Maude played in stock companies, traveling all over the United States.

Sam Young, whom Ida married, was the son of Samuel Young, the founder of Youngstown. He wrote plays, acted and

managed theatrical productions. During his stage career, he was best known for his Chinese character comedy roles. When he and his wife were on tour and young Richard was a baby, the child actually slept in dresser drawers.

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LATER, Sam Young opened the Young's Garden Theater at 319 Ohio Street, which, like other open-air theaters in those days, was called an airdome. After that closed, he managed the Savoy Theater on Wabash Avenue for many years.

Josephine (known as Pearl Melville) became star of the Baldwin Comedy Company in 1893. She married Walter Baldwin and was on the stage for a number of years. Her son, Walter Baldwin, is now making movies and television shows in Hollywood.

Maude, the other daughter, also was on the stage for some time. She married Oscar Anderson and lived in LaCrosse, Wis.

There are many Terre Hauteans who still remember the characterization of "Sis Hopkins" and the days of the theater of Sam Young and the Melville "girls."

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REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

13
YEARS

A BAKER'S DOZEN YEARS OF SUCCESS

"There ain't no sense in doin' nuthin' for nobody what
never done nuthin' for you."—SIS HOPKINS

13
YEARS

OPERA HOUSE
ONE NIGHT ONLY

THURSDAY
OCT. 26

FAREWELL ENGAGEMENT of MISS ROSE MELVILLE as SIS HOPKINS,
the Posey County Girl



ROSE MELVILLE

Now making her thirteenth and final tour as the country girl
in the pretty pastoral play

"SIS HOPKINS"

Direction of J. R. STIRLING

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

A PLAY OF
GREAT HEART
INTEREST

"Good Bye" Tour of the Original "SIS HOPKINS"

THE CLASSIC
COMEDY OF
A DECADE

The last season during which Miss Rose Melville, creator of the quaint and clever Posey County girl, will be seen as the winsome and philosophic and pig-tailed Sis

IT was Miss Melville's fixed intention to retire from the cast of *Sis Hopkins* and from the stage at the conclusion of last season's tour and she planned for a long period of rest and travel after twelve full season's presentation of the character which she originated and made so famous. When, however, the time came for replacing Miss Melville in the cast of the play which theatre managers and their patrons throughout the United States demanded and insisted upon having as the foremost attraction in their season's booking of plays, it was found that there was no one available in whom was so delicately balanced those elements of quaint humor and gentle pathos which has marked Miss Melville's portrayal of the Posey county girl. The requests for a return of the play became demands when it was intimated that *Sis Hopkins* would not be seen again and Miss Melville's manager, Mr. J. R. Stirling, was deluged with letters and telegrams of protest and genuine regret. And when Miss Melville received many similar letters from hitherto unknown admirers she forsook her plans for recreation and consented to play the part one other season, but with the understanding that it would positively be her last; and it will in all probability be the last for the play, too, for thus far no actress has appeared on the theatrical horizon who can even approach that delicacy of dramatic instinct which has given Miss Melville's "*Sis Hopkins*" its wondrous charm.

"SIS HOPKINS"

THE CLEAN STORY OF A COUNTRY GIRL THE PLAY OF HONEST LAUGHS
THE COMEDY CLASSIC OF THE AMERICAN STAGE



POSITIVELY THE FAREWELL APPEARANCE OF
ROSE MELVILLE

IN HER GREAT CHARACTER CREATION OF THE GINGHAM-CLAD COUNTRY GIRL,

"SIS HOPKINS"

The Posey County Girl who wears Gingham Pinafores, Panella Gaiters, Old-Fashioned Striped Stockings, Funny Little Pig-Tails and Celluloid Side Combs; whose Wit, Philosophy and Exquisitely Tender Pathos have touched the Hearts of Hundreds of Thousands of Theatre Goers and made her the most Beloved Character on the World's Stage.



T was easy for Miss Melville to resist managerial requests for another tour as Sis Hopkins, but when she began to receive personal appeals and letters of great regret from those to whom her portrayal has brought pleasure she succumbed. It was such letters as this one from a Buffalo girl that caused her to forgo her plans for retirement and consent to another season's presentation of Sis Hopkins:

"I so much enjoy spending an evening or two with "Sis Hopkins" when she is in Buffalo that I feel a genuine regret at the prospect of never seeing her again. I can say in all sincerity that never from childhood have I enjoyed a character so much as I have "Sis." I want to express to you my great admiration for "Sis" and my hope that when you return to the stage—and I hope your expressed determination to retire is not fixed—that it will be with something equally worthy of your great talent which, as you have probably often been told, is rare. I may not be able to resist the temptation to pay my respects to "Sis" again on Saturday evening and to Miss Melville but for whom there would have been no dear, lovable "Sis"."

Miss Melville's plans for retirement and rest have merely been postponed a season. When the present tour closes Miss Melville will leave the stage and if a worthy successor cannot be found she will take "Sis Hopkins" with her.



MISS MELVILLE



"SIS HOPKINS"

MISS ROSE MELVILLE

IS NOW ON HER GOOD BYE TOUR

as **"SIS HOPKINS"**

"THERE AINT NO SENSE IN DOIN' NOTHIN' FOR NOBODY
WHAT NEVER DONE NOTHIN' FOR YOU"

SIS HOPKINS

The play of
CLEANLY STORY
QUAINT COMEDY
SIMPLE PHILOSOPHY
HONEST PURPOSE
WONDROUS SWEETNESS
DEEP HEART INTEREST

SIS HOPKINS



THIRTEENTH AND FAREWELL TOUR

OF

Miss Rose Melville

And her Clever Company

IN

"SIS HOPKINS"

THE PLAY OF PERFECTION

A Pre-eminently Perfect and Picturesque Pastoral
Poem Clothed in Clever Comedy

Direction of J. R. STIRLING

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

File Melville as "Sis Hopkins".

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